

Appl. No. 10/609,081
Resp. of 03/29/05

Remarks

Claims 1-22 were pending with claims 1-15 withdrawn. Cancellation of claims 1-15 without prejudice (for filing in a related application) is requested. Cancellation of claims 16-18 and 20 is also requested. Claim 23 is new (its basis lies in original claim 22 and in the specification at paragraphs 0016 & 0019). Claims 19, and 21-23 are pending.

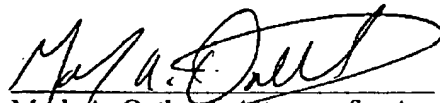
Applicant affirms the election as specified at page 2 of the Official Action mailed December 29, 2004. The withdrawn claims 1-15 are now canceled without prejudice to expedite the resolution of this application.

Claims 19 and 21 were considered allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant has rewritten claims 19 and 21 in compliance with this condition.

The dependency of claim 22 has been changed to claim 19, and it is believed such obviates the section 103(a) rejection. Claim 23 is similar.

The cancellation of claims 16-18 & 20 obviate various section 102 and 103 rejections. It is believed the application is in condition for allowance. Please reconsider and reexamine the application; and contact the undersigned attorney if it could prove helpful.

Respectfully Submitted,



Mark A. Oathout, Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 33,747
3701 Kirby Drive, Suite No. 960
Houston, Texas 77098
Telephone (713) 522-6565
Facsimile (713) 522-8889